

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**VARIABLE CURVATURE IN TAPE GUIDE ROLLERS**

5 An apparatus is provided for reducing tape media
edge damage in data regions and controlling the position
of the tape media in a passive manner. A curved tape
guide surface of a tape guide roller controls tape media
edge damage by restoring the tape media to a properly
10 aligned position on a tape guide roller by using tape
guide rollers with curved edge stops that exert a force
to the tape media during a lateral shift. As the tape
moves around the roller, the restoring force exerted by
the curved portion of the tape guide roller on the tape
15 during any lateral shift restores the tape to a centered
position. Keeping the tape media in a centered position
reduces tape edge wear, lessens degradation of the
integrity of the tape and increases the useful lifetime
of the tape.